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## ***NOTICE TO HOMEOWNER/OCCUPANT ELECTRICAL PERMIT APPLICANTS:***

### Section 210-12: Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter Protection of Bedroom Outlets:

Section 210.12 in the 2002 *National Electrical Code* (NEC) became effective on September 16, 2002. This will now require Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI) protection of all 125-volt, 15 & 20 ampere outlets in bedrooms of all dwelling units. These outlets would include: receptacles, luminaires (light fixtures), hard-wired smoke detectors and any other outlets of the proper voltage and current rating.

St. Paul will enforce this as follows:

1. All new dwellings or dwelling units will be required to have AFCI protection for all bedroom outlets as stated in the NEC.
2. New bedrooms (such as additions) in existing dwellings will also need AFCI protection for all outlets.
3. New outlets installed in existing dwelling unit bedrooms will require AFCI protection. Existing outlets in existing bedrooms may remain as is or may optionally be AFCI protected.

At present, the only means of AFCI protection is by using an AFCI circuit-breaker. AFCI circuit-breakers have been available from 4 different manufacturers for over 1-1/2 years, so no excuses of product availability will be considered. In the case of fuse panels in existing dwellings, this may require a circuit-breaker sub-panel in order to conform to this Section.

Any room that may be used as a bedroom by its basic design will be required to have AFCI protection, regardless of its stated use. Studies, dens, sewing rooms and similarly named rooms that could be used for bedrooms will be considered as bedrooms regardless of their present use or designation by the owner.

***These requirements will be effective on any electrical permit issued on or after September 16, 2002.***